

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Soil Health - Livestock Grazing

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Soil Health - Livestock Grazing		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the applicant agree to plant the entire field for three (3) consecutive years to Cover Crop (340) with 5 species soil health mix?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Are 75% or more of the field(s) to be planted Highly Erodible Land (HEL)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Have the acres under this application been treated with no-till crop production for all crops in the last two (2) consecutive years, OR does the new operator currently practice no-till on his/her operation? Vertical tillage disqualifies applicant of points for this questions.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Are fields to be planted located in a 303(d) watershed (2012 list or later version)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Have the acres under this application been treated with cover crops and/or small grains during the last two (2) consecutive years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Has the applicant ever had an EQIP contract terminated within the participants control in the last five (5) years OR has applicant ever destroyed or failed to maintain a practice for its designated life span (NRCS technical errors excluded as determined by the Area Conservationist)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Is the application for a five (5) species cover crop mix for three (3) years? Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for local level questions.	
1. a. Is this application for a five (5) species cover crop mix for three (3) years? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If the application is NOT for a five (5) species cover crop mix for three (3) years, answer the following questions:	
2. a. Does the producer have experience in managing forage heights at optimal heights during the growing season?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Is this application for no less than a five (5) species cover crop mix for less than three (3) years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Does the producer have an adequate plan and equipment to record yield differences between areas with cover crops and the required untreated areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the applicant use a Solvita (ARS-Rick Haney) annual soil test to develop the cover mixture? Soil samples collected prior to planting the cover crop are preferred. Taking soil samples at the same time of year is believed to best show more reliable soil health measurements.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Have all the fields in this application been in no-till for the last five (5) years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. f. Are fields in this application located in a 303(d) watershed (2012 list or later version)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

2. g. Has vertical tillage occurred on the applicant's operation in the last two (2) years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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